The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE— 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN WAR SAVINGS BONDS FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1679 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1943 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 33, NO. 24

Green Tells Senate Price Subsidy Will Save Nation $10,000,000,000

Washington, D. C.—A two-billion-dollar Government investment in subsidies to implement a roll-back of prices to May, 1942, levels would save the Government and the public a total of ten billion dollars, AFL President William Green testified before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Mr. Green urged the committee to eliminate from the Commodity Credit Corporation Bill a section designed to prohibit the use of price subsidies by the OPA.

While criticizing the failure of the OPA to keep prices down, Mr. Green emphasized that the current efforts of profiteering interests to destroy the OPA "is not an honest attempt to help win the war." These attacks are aimed at the principle of price control, itself, Mr. Green warned.

"We have already lost much ground to the forces of inflation," Mr. Green added. "A roll-back in the cost of living is necessary to regain that ground.

"In order to prevent complete disintegration of the price control program and save the nation at war from disruptive consequences of the collapse of price control, labor asks that prices of food and other cost of living items be rolled back to May, 1942, levels, as rapidly as feasible, and not later than July 15, 1943. This can be done.

"In order to be able to roll back prices without placing undue hardship on distributors, and without disrupting production, an extensive program of subsidies is necessary and imperative.

"Subsidies to keep prices stable are a part of the cost of the war effort. Subsidies properly placed will result in a saving to the Government in expenditures for supplies and to the consumers many times the cost of such subsidy.

"The two-billion-dollar program of subsidies labor has proposed would afford a saving to the Government of at least 4 billion dollars and a saving to consumers of approximately 6 billion dollars, or a total saving to the nation of over 10 billion dollars."

Supreme Court Rules Employers Must Repay Company Union Dues

Washington, D. C.—Companies proved to have dominated "independent" unions must repay to their workers the dues collected for membership in these unions under the check-off system, the United States Supreme Court ruled.

The case concerned the Virginia Electric & Power Co., which the board had found to have dominated an "inside" union, the Independent Organization of Employes. Some time ago the board commanded dissolution of this union, the company withdrew its support and the association was abandoned.

But the power corporation opposed the repayment of dues and the Supreme Court agreed to review that protest, especially as five Circuit Courts, in 11 cases, had refused to enforce board orders for reimbursement. In the Virginia case the board had ordered the company to pay back about $90,000, or all dues collected during the 5-year existence of the I. O. E.

The Supreme Court majority gave no sympathy to the company's argument that the check-off system of collecting dues was voluntary by the employes, and that any wrong done by the employer was closed when the I. O. E. was dissolved. On the other hand, Mr. Murphy found for the majority that the Labor Board had complete power to command the repayment in order to "effectuate" the policies of the Wagner Act.

Oklahoma Education Board Bars Teachers From Membership In Union

Oklahoma City.—While the Armed Forces of the United States are fighting a global war for freedom on many fronts, the Board of Education in Oklahoma City is following the totalitarian practice of attempting to regiment and intimidate public school teachers with a yellow dog contract. Recently a local of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL affiliate, was formed in Oklahoma City where teachers' salaries are very low.

At the same time a bill was introduced in the Oklahoma legislature to prohibit teachers from affiliating with unions. This bill, which was intended to prevent teachers from striking, was defeated when the legislators learned that the teachers' union has a non-strike policy and that teachers may best be prevented from striking by organizing them in the union.

After this bill was defeated, the Board of Education voted that the new contract issued to teachers in July will prohibit membership in the teachers' union.

Green Sees Major Role For Labor In Furthering Post-War Progress

New York City.—Labor demands a major role in post-war reconstruction to attain the two-fold objective of enduring peace and economic security for the peoples of all nations, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, told a meeting of the American Labor Conference on International Affairs at the Hotel Commodore.

Speaking directly to 500 labor leaders and to the nation via the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mr. Green emphasized that American labor, having played an outstanding part toward winning the war, is intent on doing all within its power to eliminate the possibility of a third world war.

"International conferences, councils and interim commissions have already been formed to deal with the war problems of the Allies," he pointed out. "These bodies will inevitably predetermine to a very large extent the solution of many post-war issues. Labor demands that it be fully represented in all deliberations which deal with post-war reconstruction and with such basic international post-war problems as food, relief and trade relations."

Praising the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill to expand the social security program, Mr. Green said labor is dedicated to the establishment of economic security on a world-wide basis as a foundation for a just and peaceable relationship in international affairs.

PLUMBERS UNION OFFICIAL HAS 3 SONS IN SERVICE

Santa Ana, Calif.—H. W. Brooks, business representative of Local 582, United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, AFL, is proud of his family's war record. He has given 3 sons to America's armed forces, 1 to the Navy and 2 to the Army.

The AFL Plan To Banish Fear of Want

Second Article In New Series Explains Need For National Employment Service

When workers look for jobs or employers advertise for workers, state lines are not in their minds. The labor market of Philadelphia extends up to Trenton, down to Wilmington and across to Camden and nearby towns. That of St. Louis extends to the neighboring towns up and down the river, west into Missouri and east into Illinois. Seattle was the skilled labor market of Alaska, as San Francisco was for Hawaii before Pearl Harbor. Industry, which searches the world over for raw materials, thinks nothing of drawing its labor force from long distances. The automobile has extended commuting possibilities and we go where the job beckons. Of course, after we have settled down, made payments on a home, found a good school for the children, and made friends in the union and in the women's auxiliary, we'd rather stay and advance in the job that we have, or stay in the home town if we have to make a change.

Certainly the first thing we want to do is to exhaust all possibilities of finding a good job where we live, or somewhere near enough so that we can go back and forth every day. But if we can't do that we want to go where there is the best chance of finding good work and bettering ourselves.

Saving Workers From Useless Search For Jobs

Hunting for a job used to mean getting to the factory gate before the whistle blew and waiting in line, unless you had a friend who would say a word to the foreman, or unless the business agent of the union had a good line on jobs in the city. We all know that the old hit or miss way of hunting for jobs was wasteful and discouraging; so the unions went out for a public employment service even though it took over some functions formerly performed by our organizations.

Advisory Committees

In return, the unions asked for an advisory committee to the employment service in each locality and for the nation, with labor representation on that advisory committee. That power of representation can give organized labor a voice in maintaining union standards in the hiring of workers and on the job.

A Good Local Employment Office

All systems of public employment offices, either state or national, depend upon competent and fair local employment offices. Most workers will go to their local public employment office if that is the best place to find a job and if we are treated right when we apply. Most employers will register jobs with the public employment office when that is the best place for getting the kind of help they need.

In order to serve workers and employers competently, the local employment service must have complete and up-to-date information about available jobs and available labor within the whole labor market. It must also have the kind of contacts with employers that will make the front office of a plant more than half ready to employ a worker who is recommended by the employment service, because other workers the service has recommended have made good. The local public employment office must treat workers in such a way that we too have confidence in it. When the local employment office has the information, the confidence of workers and employers, and the contacts, it can enormously cut down the employer's loss in idle machinery while he is hunting for competent help and save the time and money which workers lose in hunting for jobs.

Information About Jobs Elsewhere

But even a good local employment service can't produce workers or jobs if there aren't any there. To satisfy the workers who apply for jobs and the employers who register them, the local employment office must have information about jobs in other places and about men and women in other places who would go elsewhere. During World War No. 1, employers in the large cotton mill states used to say that there were enough cotton mill workers going about over the state looking for work to keep an entire mill running. And the workers used to say that "three moves are as good as a fire." These workers would hear of jobs in the next town, but by the time they got there the jobs were filled.

After World War I, people got used to going still farther in search of jobs. People from Arkansas or Tennessee went to Akron, and from there to Detroit or to Chicago. Negroes from the "deep South" who had gone to Philadelphia during the war, went on to Pittsburgh or New York. But soon after the war we had "prosperity" when jobs seemed easy to get, and then we had depression when jobs were scarce; so, like the old story that the family didn't need to fix the roof in good weather and couldn't do it when it rained, we rocked along without seriously trying to tackle the problem of contacting workers in one state with jobs in another.

The Need For National Placement Machinery

The state employment services in some cases were building up excellent information about what was happening in other states; but they didn't have the machinery for going across state lines and making the direct contact for the worker, Joe Smith, in their state with the employer, Joe Brown, in another. They couldn't make the kind of contacts that would more than half convince Joe Brown that Joe Smith—because they recommended him—was the man for the job.

Before Pearl Harbor we began waking up to the necessity for reshaping the employment service so that it could contact workers and jobs regardless of state lines. Craftsmen who were essential for war industries couldn't be wasted while they were looking up jobs. They couldn't be wasted on work that was less essential than what they could be doing. Workers had to be trained or retrained with an eye on the best job prospects.

At the same time firms were locating in all sorts of unexpected places. Plants were converting to all sorts of new lines. Still there were times or places where many people were out of work. Local employment offices were swamped with demands for workers, or demands for jobs, or both, at the same time. Men and women who could find no jobs at home, or even in the state, were needed elsewhere. There were workers in other states to fill the jobs for which there was no available local labor.

The big task was to contact workers and jobs, wherever they were, and to do the job so well that the contact would result in hiring the workman. That is why the President set up a national employment service as a war necessity.

A National Employment Service Now

There are a number of reasons why a national employment service can actually refer workers to jobs in another state better than a system of 48 separate state services can do it. Where each state has a separate service one state cannot transgress the sovereignty of another by making the contact for its own workers with an employer in another state, or for its own employers with workers in another state. The referrals have to go through the local employment office in one state to its state office; from there to the other state office, and on to the local office.

This is bad enough if there is only one referral. But if a hundred workers in one state may be needed for jobs in half a dozen other states, or if three plants in different states must each collect a thousand men from wherever they can, you can see how complicated and time consuming it would be for each state office to check with the other state offices. If we recognize that this kind of contacting of men and jobs is an industry problem then we can see that the federal government is the only agency with the machinery to do the job. In fact, the states originally set up the federal government to handle things which were not concerned with political boundaries. With the basic organization of jobs and production on a national basis, our social security system must be national in its scope. Workers must be able to follow jobs without losing protection against work emergencies. In addition, only the Federal Government can assure all workers the right to equal protection in case of emergencies affecting the job. Whatever interferes with work, whether sickness, unemployment or physical inability to work, cuts off workers' incomes without which they must ask for charity; a democratic society cannot afford to scrap workers accustomed to be self-dependent who are not able to earn a living through no fault of their own, and must assure all equally at least the minimum income of social security.

A national employment service does not infringe upon a state's rights any more than a railroad or telegraph line, or a radio broadcast, which services many states, infringes upon any state's rights. The railroad must take people wherever they want to go, and the broadcasting station spreads the news wherever people want it, both of them supplementing and strengthening the local services. The employment service must contact workers and jobs wherever they may be; and like the railroad and the radio, the national system must supplement the local service. In fact, most of the 1500 full-time local employment offices which are now contacting men and jobs, and practically all of the part-time offices, have been built up by the help of the federal government. The local office will have to have much more accurate and up-to-date information and much closer contacts with workers and employers if it must share the responsibility of recommending workers to jobs or jobs to workers, who are hundreds of—perhaps a thousand or more—miles away. The local office becomes a part of a national system instead of a part of a system restricted to a single state.

In wartime the President can meet the demand for contacting workers and jobs across state lines by setting up a national employment service. After the war we shall need to have a national service by law. It looks as though after the war we shall be hunting for jobs regardless of state lines even more than we are doing today.

And After The War

After the war, millions of workers demobilized from the armed forces and released from war industries will be hunting for employment. Wherever they are demobilized or laid off they will be applying for work in their line. Each one will want to know the job and the plant where he can get to work. Plants everywhere will be reconverting to peacetime demands, retooling, perhaps relocating, and looking for labor. The sooner we all get down to peacetime production the more quickly we'll begin to produce what we need, to raise our purchasing power and to put everybody to work.

But let's not fool ourselves that it's going to be easy. We haven't forgotten the hopelessness and the hunger of 1930-33. The states tried valiantly to take care of unemployed workers and to place them; but the states separately couldn't handle a problem that was national. We don't want to wait until the soldiers and war workers are demobilized before we make our plans and perfect our machinery to meet unemployment and to contact workers and jobs.

Now the government and industry need a national employment service to make the best use of our labor. After the war we'll need a national employment service to put our own labor to best use.

A. F. OF L. COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY:

Matthew Woll, Chairman,
George Meany,
G. M. Bugniazet,
John P. Frey.

Green Urges Roosevelt To Veto Connally-Smith Anti-Labor Bill

What The Connally-Smith Bill Does

Washington, D. C.—Outstanding provisions of the final version of the Connally-Smith Bill adopted by both Houses of Congress follow:

1—Empowers the President to take over in behalf of the Government any war plant, mine or manufacturing facility threatened with interruption of production by a strike or other labor disturbance.

2—Imposes fines up to $5,000 and a year's imprisonment, or both, upon any person who may "coerce, instigate, induce, conspire with, or encourage any person to interfere by lockout, strike, slow-down or other interruption, with the operation" of such plants taken over by the Government. The same penalties are provided for "aiding" such strike or lockout, giving "direction or guidance" to it or providing funds "for the conduct or direction thereof," through payment of strike or unemployment benefits.

3—Gives the National War Labor Board statutory recognition, empowers it to intervene in disputes on its own motion, authorizes the Board to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses, but restricts the Board's present right to order union-shop settlements.

4—Provides that no member of the Board shall be permitted to participate in any decision in which such member has a direct interest as an officer, employe or representative of either party to the dispute.

5—Requires a 30-day "cooling off" period before a strike may be called. Employe representatives must give notice of intention to strike to the Secretary of Labor, the National War Labor Board and the National Labor Relations Board. The latter body is directed to conduct a secret ballot election on the proposed strike among affected employes before the expiration of the 30-day notice. Any person who "wilfully fails or refuses" to comply with these provisions shall be liable to damages "to any person injured thereby and to the United States if so injured."

6—Prohibits political contributions by any labor organization to the election campaigns of presidential, vice presidential and congressional candidates.

Warns It Will Impede War Production And Injure Nation's War Effort

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green led the forces of organized labor in appealing to President Roosevelt to veto the fascist, anti-labor Connally-Smith Bill.

"The workers of this country would never become reconciled to this legislation," Mr. Green informed the President. "They would protest against it and rebel against it in the event that it would become the law of the land."

It is expected that the various war agencies of the Government will join with organized labor in urging the President to veto the measure because, as Mr. Green pointed out, it will interfere with war production and injure the war effort.

"This legislation is fascist in character," Mr. Green warned in a letter to the President. "For the first time in the history of our country Congress has enacted legislation depriving workers of the exercise of the right to strike. This legislation strikes at the very heart of democratic processes and is violative of the fundamental principles of freedom upon which our form of government rests.

"Imagine the state of mind of the workers of the nation who are in full accord with the no-strike pledge made you by the representatives of the American Federation of Labor. These workers have kept the pledge to relinquish the exercise of the right to strike for the duration of the war in a way that has challenged the admiration of all fair-minded people.

"They now ask themselves if the amazing records which they have made and the new heights in production which they have reached mean nothing. They resent being made the victims of fascist, nazi legislation, the substitution of force for voluntarism and the imposition of a form of servitude upon the masses of the people in a democratic nation, similar to that which is imposed upon the workers in totalitarian countries.

"Congress was moved by anger and feeling when it passed this legislation. Such emotions constitute an unsafe guide for the enactment of legislation which affects the liberty, freedom and fundamental rights of millions of people.

"I appeal to you, Mr. President, to follow the opposite course and through the use of calm judgment veto this un-American, fascist, anti-labor legislation."

Meanwhile, it was reported that messages from central labor unions and State Federations of Labor protesting against the Connally-Smith Bill were flooding the White House.

Astute observers pointed out that President Roosevelt has never signed an anti-labor measure during his entire career as Chief Executive. They did not anticipate that he would mar his record at this late date.

It was also believed possible that the coal mine crisis might be settled once and for all before the President is required to act on the Connally-Smith Bill. It was conceded on all sides that the coal strike and the threat of future strikes were the chief factors behind Congressional approval of the bill. With this controversy out of the way, the last iota of alleged justification for the measure would be wiped out.

The Roll-Call of Labor's Enemies

(Note to Editors—Please kill the roll-call published in the June 8 issue of the AFLWNS. It was erroneous. This is a "must" correction. The American Federation of Labor apologizes deeply to those members of the House of Representatives whose names were included in the erroneous roll-call despite the fact that they actually voted against adoption of the Connally-Smith Bill. The correct roll-call which should serve as a guide to all AFL organizations is published herewith.)

Washington, D. C.—Below appears the official list taken from the Congressional Record of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate who voted for adoption of the final version of the anti-labor Connally-Smith Bill. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has publicly pledged that organized labor will do everything in its power to defeat those who voted for this measure.

THE HOUSE ROLL-CALL

Democrats—101

Abernethy	Disney	Kilday	Ramspeck
Allen	Durham	Kleberg	Randolph
Anderson (N. M.)	Fernandez	Lanham	Rankin
Baldwin	Fisher	Lea	Richards
Barden	Folger	McCormack	Robertson
Beckworth	Fulbright	McKenzie	Satterfield
Bland	Fulmer	McMillan	Sikes
Bonner	Gathings	Mahon	Smith (Va.)
Boren	Gore	Maloney	Sparkman
Boykin	Gossett	Manasco	Starnes
Brooks	Grant	Mansfield (Tex.)	Stewart
Brown	Green	May	Sumners
Bryson	Gregory	Mills	Tarver
Burch	Hare	Monroney	Thomas
Burgin	Harless	Morrison (La.)	Thomason
Camp	Harris (Ark.)	Murdock	Vincent
Cannon (Mo.)	Harris (Va.)	Murray	Ward
Chapman	Hays	Norrell	Wasielewski
Clark	Hebert	Patman	West
Cooley	Hobbs	Patton	Whitten
Cooper	Jarman	Peterson (Fla.)	Whittington
Cox	Johnson (Okla.)	Peterson (Ga.)	Wickersham
Cravens	Johnson, Luther A.	Poage	Winstead
Creal	Kefauver	Price	Woodrum
Davis	Kerr	Priest	Worley
			Zimmerman

Republicans—118

Allen	Gale	Johnson, J. Leroy	Schwabe
Andersen (Minn.)	Gamble	Johnson, Ward	Shafer
Anderson (Calif.)	Gearhart	Johnson, Anton J.	Short
Andresen (Minn.)	Gerlach	Jones	Simpson (Ill.)
Andrews	Gifford	Jonkman	Simpson (Pa.)
Arends	Gilchrist	Judd	Smith (Ohio)
Arnold	Gillette	Kean	Smith (Wis.)
Auchincloss	Goodwin	Kearney	Springer
Barrett	Graham	Keefe	Stanley
Bates	Grant	Kinzer	Stearns
Bennett (Miss.)	Gross	Lambertson	Stefan
Brown	Gwynne	McCowen	Stockman
Buffett	Hale	McGregor	Sumner
Carlson	Hall, Edwin A.	McLean	Sundstrom
Case	Hall, Leonard W.	McWilliams	Taber
Chiperfield	Halleck	Mason	Talbot
Church	Hancock	Martin (Iowa)	Talle
Clason	Harness	Martin (Mass.)	Thomas
Clevenger	Hartley	Michener	Tibbott
Compton	Herter	Miller (Neb.)	Towe
Cunningham	Hess	Mott	Vorys
Curtis	Hill	Phillips	Vursell
Dewey	Hinshaw	Ploeser	Wadsworth
Dondero	Hoeven	Plumley	Wigglesworth
Dworshak	Hoffman	Reece	Willey
Ellis	Holmes (Mass.)	Reed (N. Y.)	Wilson
Ellsworth	Holmes (Wash.)	Rockwell	Winter
Elston	Horan	Rodgers	Wolcott
Fellows	Jenkins	Rogers	Woodruff
	Jensen	Rowe	

THE SENATE ROLL-CALL

Democrats—30

Andrews	Chavez	Hill	Pepper
Bailey	Connally	Lucas	Radcliffe
Bankhead	Eastland	Maloney	Reynolds
Bilbo	Ellender	Maybank	Russell
Byrd	George	McClellan	Smith
Caraway	Gerry	McKellar	Stewart
Chandler	Hatch	O'Daniel	Van Nuys
	Hayden	O'Mahoney	

Republicans—25

Aiken	Capper	McNary	Thomas (Idaho)
Austin	Ferguson	Millikin	Vandenberg
Barbour	Gurney	Moore	Wherry
Bridges	Hawkes	Reed	White
Burton	Holman	Revercomb	Wiley
Bushfield	Lodge	Taft	Willis
			Wilson

Union Labor Legionnaires Blast N.A.M. "Americanism" Program

Detroit, Mich.—Ending the two-day national pre-convention conference of Union Labor Legionnaires, delegates representing 84 trade-union American Legion posts throughout the country assailed acceptance by the Legion of large sums from the National Association of Manufacturers to finance a so-called "Americanism" campaign.

Other resolutions passed by the conference were:

1. Extending sympathy to the families and the trade unions of the American seamen, radio officers and other ships' officers who have given their lives to deliver the goods.

2. Urging the formation of labor management committees throughout industry for the purpose of planning postwar conversion of industry to peacetime pursuits.

3. Condemning race discrimination against minority groups in the United States armed forces and in industry.

4. Supporting President Roosevelt's program of full collaboration between the United Nations.

5. Endorsing the no-strike pledge of labor and supporting labor's promise of uninterrupted production.

H. W. STRICKLAND DIES; RAILWAY MAIL OFFICIAL

Washington, D. C.—Henry W. Strickland, industrial secretary of the Railway Mail Association and editor of its journal, the Railway Post Office, collapsed in front of the AFL Building Monday morning, June 14, and died without regaining consciousness. He was 61 years old.

Mr. Strickland had been associated with the Railway Mail Association more than 25 years. He became editor of the Railway Post Office in 1915 and was influential in bringing about affiliation of the association with the American Federation of Labor in 1917. He was elected industrial secretary of the association in 1921, with headquarters in Washington, D. C. He attended the last 14 biennial conventions of the association and the last 22 conventions of the AFL. For a number of years he served on the Resolutions Committee of the AFL conventions.

During his service career his exceptional talents and outstanding ability were recognized by his fellow workers because of the clarity with which he expounded his views in regard to the building of a progressive and aggressive organization based upon the principles of unionism as exemplified by the American Federation of Labor.

A tireless and indefatigable worker, possessed with a high degree of intellectual ability, an able and versatile writer, an exponent of progressive liberalism, he contributed generously of his talents in promoting and advancing the cause of all of those who toil for a wage.

He is survived by his widow, a son and two daughters.